

00:00:11 case of uh Levi Turbo. Trumble, I'm sorry, Trumble. T R U M B U L. >> Good morning, your honor. >> Yes, good morning, your honor. For the record, Levi Trumbull, the plaintiff, and for the purposes of today's proceeding, I am the moving party for default judgment. >> Okay. Are you prosay? You're an attorney though, right? But you're representing yourself. >> Are you asking? I am not an attorney, your honor. But I am appearing prosay. You have that correct? >> You're not an attorney. 00:00:42 >> No, your honor. >> Okay, that's fine. It's just that on your uh on the complaint it says office of uh how do you pronounce your >> Well, that that's my my name is >> Levi or Levy. >> It is pronounced Levi. >> Levi. Okay. Obviously, Levi Trumbull, so I maybe I just >> No. No. Well, that is my office. I'm a video production specialist, but that is my office. Yes, that's like it is my office. Not a law office, but it is an office. >> And I don't know if I called the case 00:01:07 number Okay. And you are >> Okay. Um All right. As I understand the posture of this case, a an order of default was entered against Miss May was entered anyway, right? >> Yes, you're honor. >> Order of default >> January 16. >> She failed to she was served and failed to file a timely responsive pleading. >> Is that right? >> That is right, your honor. So, she was served on December 10th. The suit was filed on December 8th. She failed to 00:01:46 file a responsive pleading by the deadline. Uh we moved this court and I believe it was um uh we moved I believe it was January 19th we moved for an entry of order. It was signed excuse me was the 16th we moved for an entry of order of default. It was signed the same day on the 20th they put out the notices. So that is correct that she was in default. Then subsequently as the court might have record of >> I'm sorry. What was the date the uh default order was >> the date that it was it was signed on 00:02:20 January 16th. It was filed January 16th. It was entered and docketed on January 20th >> and she was put on >> notice. I got it. >> Thank you. >> I got it. Okay. So on the 20th, let me just review the history of the case a little bit. >> Of course, your honor. You can have a seat for a minute, >> of course. >> Please. You should see a um entry. That's fine. Okay. And then Miss May, you filed an answer on January 29th, 2026, right? An answer to complaint. Is that right? 00:03:56 >> Yes, correct, your honor. >> Okay. Um and then Mr. Trumble filed a motion to strike file a motion that's titled as motion to strike improperly filed answer on February 17th. Correct. >> That is correct. >> Your motion for entry of default judgement on the 20th of February. >> Correct. in opposition to the defendants response as plaintiff's opposition to defendants improper motion. Was there a motion to dismiss filed? >> Uh yes, we just filed it recently. 00:04:47 >> Was there something? What was it? A Was your answer? Was it an answer and motion to dismiss filed on January 29th? on January 29th. I I believe so, but we also did one recently as well. >> Okay. >> It was denied. >> The motion to dismiss was denied. >> Yes, your honor. >> Right. >> And um >> Okay, but just hold on. I'll tell you what I want you to talk. I'm not trying to be rude, but you're let me read the papers in front of me because the case 00:05:17 there's a lot of >> for default case there's a lot of uh docu I'm just trying to make sure that I understand accurately the posture of the case. Okay. >> Yes, your honor. Now, Judge Stringer also >> Sophie. >> Yeah. >> Can you print the March 12th, 2026 order of Judge Stringer? There's an order denying the motion to strike improperly by answer. You see what that stringer did there? from Judge Stringer on May 4th. >> No, March 12th. >> Oh, March 12th. 00:08:02 Did you find it? >> It's not. My computer is being so slow right now. Maybe Jenny's just not as slow today for some reason. Jenny, do you see >> it by >> March March 12th, 2026 >> or February 11th? >> No, the March >> March 11. March 12th. I'm sorry. March 12th. >> Order. Motion request. Petition denied. Judicial Officer Patrick Stringer. I I just got it. >> Okay. Well, one of you can print it for me. >> And so, all right. So, can you also find 00:09:13 the defendants um paper that was filed on January 29th, 2026? her answer. denied the motion to dismiss. Is there >> It's on the first page. Judge, >> I see it, but it says denied. The motion to dismiss was denied. Was there an earlier denial of the motion to dismiss? Let me see. >> This just says answer to complaint. >> That's what was filed with the 29th. I don't see by the defendant. >> Is this a free exhibit on that day? >> There was a motion to dismiss January 00:11:03 29. >> They were fought at the same time. Okay. Can I see the motion to dismiss also file the same date as the answer? >> Uh when was that entered? >> The order was entered February 24th. >> February 20. Yeah. Yep. Sure do. That's motion page. >> Last page. >> Okay. Mr. Trumble, let me ask you something. Um, you had prayed a jury trial, a jury demand, >> correct? >> Correct. And um are you still with respect

to even if the court were to proceed with 00:12:49 um I want to hear from the defendant first to get to address some issues about the default status. But even if the court were to proceed in a default posture, are you um are you waving your jury demand? I would be if the court moves to enter final judgment today then yes I would >> then you'd be leaving up to um >> to your honor >> to me to decide >> damages I would be the factfinder as to damages and I could award anything from >> um depending on >> what the evidence is from 00:13:28 >> whatever the low side to whatever the high side that you that you ask but it would be completely within my >> um I would be factfinder would be completely within um I guess my discretion as the factfinder on damages to to decide what the amount of damages is. >> Your honor, that is what Maryland rules say. I will say sir um >> if in order to enable the court to enter judgment it is necessary to take an account or to determine the amount of damages or to establish the truth of any 00:14:04 averment by evidence or to make an investigation of any matter. The court may rely on affidavit, conduct hearings or order references as appropriate and if requested shall preserve to the plaintiff the right to trial by jury. So the right to a trial by jury is preserved if you if you want it. The jury would decide >> the amount of damages as the factfinder, not me. But I am >> otherwise you'd have to wave it and basically say judge I'm letting you be the factfinder on the amount of 00:14:37 damages and whatever >> whatever you judge decide I'll agree to. >> Not agree to but you'll be bound by as the fact you know I would you would be withdrawing your you would be saying to me I'm withdrawing my right to I I don't wish to um preserve my right to a jury trial and damages. I wish to proceed as a judge trial. your honor. So, just so I understand the court, um are you is it the court's position that if I did not wave that right today that I could proceed to a 00:15:11 jury on damages only? >> Uh if if I find that she's in default, then yes. >> Okay. Your honor, I I would be com Sorry. Go ahead. >> No, go ahead. >> No, I will say I I am comfortable today uh with this court. Well, let me let me before you do that, I just wanted to let you think about it because let me figure out where we are. >> Okay. >> Sure. >> But if if um if we're at the point where you're proceeding, if if I find that she's still in default 00:15:41 >> um um if we'll we'll cross the bridge then. I was going to ask you what if I find that if somehow I find that she's relieved from the default then you may you know I don't know what your position will be on that but if we proceed as default your right to jury trial as to damages in other words liability if she's in default and it's not vacated right then she can't contest liability um but the factfinder would still have to determine the amount of damages which 00:16:14 you could either leave to the judge me or you're right to a jury trial. If you want a jury to decide how much you've been damaged, >> then your right to jury trial is preserved under the the rules in the Maryland Constitution. So, that's your call. But, um, just have you just think about that for a minute. Okay. >> I will do just that, your honor. >> All right. All right. Miss May, >> you didn't file your you didn't file your answer. You were served. Was 00:16:57 there an affidavit of service filed? >> Okay. When back in January, do you know exactly what the date was? >> Your honor, December 16th it was filed with the court. Affidavit of private process server. Okay. So, can you put that for me? The return of service. >> Return of it's u was docketed December 16th. Return of service sir. Return of service person served on AMA on 1210, 2025. That's what the entry says. Can I see that? >> Yes. Now, >> your honor, I'm sorry to interject. 00:17:37 Before you print that document, they actually scanned in like 80 something pages to that record. So be careful to print that whole thing. Just the first four pages. >> I just want the >> Yes. page. >> Okay. Miss May, so there's an affidavit of service that was filed in this case by the plaintiff u and the affidavit was made out by his process server Anthony Tyler Jarvo that says that on December 10th, 2025 you were served. >> That's correct. >> That's correct. Okay. And were you 00:19:03 served within the state of Maryland? >> Yes. >> Okay. So then you had 30 days to file an answer. >> Yes. >> Okay. You didn't file you didn't file an answer within 30 days, correct? >> Yes. Correct. >> Okay. And then you filed you file an answer and a motion to dismiss on January 29th which was late right? >> Uh yes correct. >> Okay. And then and actually an order entering default was entered against you actually before that on January 20th. 00:19:56 >> Right. >> Um I wasn't aware of that. Yes. >> Okay. >> Right. And then did you receive a notice from the court that said that that informed you that default had been entered. >> Um, it's it's kind of hard for me to tell because I receive stuff

from the plaintiff all the time and I don't really understand a lot of the papers. I believe I probably did. >> Okay. Now, you didn't the rules say that after an entry of default, after an order of 00:20:36 default has been entered that um the defendant, that's you in this case, may move to vacate the order of default within 30 days of entry. And the motion shall state the reasons for the failure to plead and the legal and factual basis for the defenses to the claim. But um you filed an answer and a motion to dismiss, but you didn't file a motion to vacate the order of default within 30 days. Is that correct? >> Uh yeah, within 30 days. Correct. >> Okay. Now, you fought one more recently. Yes, 00:21:21 your honor. >> Okay. And what's the um Sophie, can you print April 9th, 2026 motion to vacate? >> Mhm. >> And um what did you say? I'm going to look at it, but what did you say in your motion to vacate? >> Um I basically explained um the past two year almost two years of harassment I've been um experiencing from the plaintiff and I provided exhibits and um dates and >> All right. Do you explain Did you explain in your motion why you failed to plead within 30 00:21:57 days? >> Yes, it was completely my fault. Um I just didn't understand any of the papers that were coming in and I stated before that the plaintiff is constantly mailing um his every move to my house and if I'm being completely honest, I just have a giant box and I every time I see his names um I'm upset. So I just put it in the I didn't understand what it meant. So that's definitely on me. All right. Well, I hear what you're saying, but I'm a little bit constrained by what the rules 00:23:03 say. Okay. Um I I'll hear argument from you. Um but the you know, the the rules say that the defendant may move to vacate an order of default within 30 days um after entry. You did file you did file an answer and a motion to dismiss, but you didn't file a motion to vacate the default. >> Okay. >> Was there a reason why you just didn't understand what you had to do? >> Yeah, I I'm 21. I haven't really done anything like this before. >> Okay, I understand that. But 00:23:36 >> I'm sorry. >> No, no, no. It's um but on the other hand, um there's kind of an old expression. It's not one that judges necessarily like to use, but there's some truth to it, and that's ignorance that the law doesn't I understand. >> And here, this is why, you know, I know people can't afford lawyers, but this is when this is how lawyers can help um people or we even had a we have a kind of a self-help center here. And the problem is that when the rules tell me 00:24:08 that you need to file, if there's an order of default entered, um, you need to file the motion to vacate the order of default within 30 days. And you could have potentially filed your answer. You filed your answer and said, I your honor, judges, you know, whatever the audience is, um, yes, I was late. I filed my answer. I'm only nine days late and these are the reasons why. But instead, you waited until you kind of did half of what you needed to do. You filed an answer and a motion to dismiss, but you didn't file the motion 00:24:42 to vacate until April 9th, which is nearly um let's see, the the uh order of default was entered on January 20th. So, January, February, February, March, March, April. It's it was a little under three months late. >> Yes. Sorry. >> But anyway, I'll hear I'll hear from you. But there's but you're in a little bit of a as far as what the rules allow me to do. You're in a little bit of a bind. >> Yes, I understand that. >> Okay. Go ahead. >> It um I stated before that there's been 00:25:16 almost two years, I think two years in August of harassment that I've been receiving from the plaintiff. >> And um it took my I asked my family and I because the first time he sued me, I was And now that he's doing it again, I wanted to see if I could do it on my own. And I completely messed that up. But this time, my parents um wanted to help me. So, it took us almost 3 months to gather all of the exhibits and all of the evidence of his harassment and possibly stalking for the past two 00:25:49 years. >> Okay. >> Is there any is there any protective order, peace order that's been entered between the parties in this case? >> Um yes. I filed a peace order. Um, but it was um he wasn't being served and I showed up every week and he had started leaving me alone at that point. So, I figured that it would be okay to um just let it dismiss, but then it started back up again after >> that. You're going to you're going to attempt to represent yourself today in 00:26:19 this default hearing. >> Um >> I mean, you are in default, >> I believe. So, yes. I think so. Yes. Yes. >> Okay. >> Okay. Mr. Trumbull, are you um turning back to you? Are you are you um do you still wish to proceed with a with a jury trial or um at this point are you waiving your right to a jury trial? Your honor, I think um your honor, at this time I would preserve my right to a jury trial if default is now established on damages. >> What do you mean if default is not 00:27:08 established? She's in default.

Okay. But that doesn't mean you get a judgment. But in order to have a judgment entered, you either have to proceed with your jury trial or you have to try your case in front of me and let me be the backfinder. >> Okay. Um, under that circumstance, I will proceed right now before you. >> We can wrap it up here. >> Waving your right to a jury trial. >> I will wave my right at this moment to proceed to a jury trial. Yes, your honor. >> Do just that. 00:27:36 >> All right. Swear the witnesses. Swear in, Mr. Trump. >> Please raise your right hand. You do hereby soundly swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury that the responses given a statement made will be the whole truth and nothing but the truth. >> I do. >> Thank you. Please state your name for the record. >> Levi J. Trumble. >> Thank you. >> Okay. And for the record, if I um if I have to clear up this procedurally, the court the court would deny the motion to 00:27:57 vacate the default the order of default. It's untimely. >> Thank you, your honor. >> I'm sad to say. Um but you know, I understand that the defendant filed an answer to the motion to dismiss, and that's good, but it was late. And procedurally, what had to happen is that there needs to be a timely um motion to vacate the order of default file within 30 days after the order was entered, which was back in January. No timely motion to vacate the order was filed. Um so the court is the court's 00:28:29 hands are are tied. Um and unfortunately misunderstanding the law is not um it's unfortunate. I understand not everyone can afford a lawyer. I understand that um this may or may not have understood exactly what you need needed to do under the rules, but unfortunately the rules are the rules. So um the court will deny the motion to vacate the default. We'll proceed today on the on the default. Um all right. So anyway, all right, Mr. Trouble, tell me what you uh tell me what you want to tell me. 00:29:06 >> Okay, I will I will do if I have leadway, I will do just that. Well, like I said, your honor, good morning. I'm the Okay. And and also this is not >> at this point um argument. You need to >> and you can sit and give your testimony if you want. I'll let you testify from there. I'll let Miss May testify from her um table as well. >> Okay. >> The point here is not there are rules of evidence. Even though she's in a default posture, >> we still have rules of evidence. 00:29:31 >> Of course. >> Okay. >> Okay. >> Yes. >> So, uh this isn't the time for argument um or what you think. You can Tell me what you want, but you just have to give factual testimony, right? That's admissible factual testimony. Okay. So, go ahead. All right, your honor. We will start with the claim. Um, so on September 15th, uh, 2025 at approximately 9:53 p.m. Uh, the defendant in this case published statements on her Instagram account, that being ava gay to approximately 00:30:04 1,500 followers. And uh those statements contained three false accusations of criminal conduct pertaining to myself. The first statement that the defendant posted was quote, and I will read it verbatim, quote, "This guy has been stalking me." And that statement in that screenshot, which the court will see in one moment, contained my full name and a photograph of me. Uh this was a false accusation of a crime uh that being stalking under Maryland rule. Excuse me, not Maryland rule, but Maryland criminal 00:30:37 law section 3-82. That is a crime that carries up to 5 years imprisonment. Second, the plaintiff wrote, quote, "He harassed me and my family for months." This is a false accusation of the crime of harassment under Maryland law section 3-803. And then third, she backed that up by saying, quote, "He's back to harassing me." This is a false statement implying a prior criminal pattern of criminal conduct and its resumption. Uh fourth, your honor, and we don't claim this is 00:31:12 defamation per se. Um but what we do argue is that she then made a fourth statement and that quote was this guy is also 10 years older than me. And the purpose of that statement um we would put forth is to make me appear more dangerous and and whatnot. It's an objectively fault. Listen, no argument. >> No argument. Okay. Just that. >> Stick to the facts. >> Stick to the facts. I'm doing just that. Um the actual age difference between myself and the defendant, your honor, is 00:31:43 5 years. And um I would notate all four state all four of those statements. >> Stick to the facts. >> Yes. Stick the facts. Okay. Moving forward, your honor, um I would say for the filing and service, um we sent her a cease and desist letter. That's the one day after the posting of the defamatory statements. Um and on September 16th, she received notice of that. Uh she ultimately that same day >> 1216 of what year? >> Oh, I'm sorry. It was 9:16, not 1216. >> Yes, your honor. So the of of 2025 00:32:24 >> 25. Okay. >> Yes, your honor. So, the statements were made on September 15th, 2025. We noticed them um and we sent her a cease and desist the very next morning. On that same morning, she actually filed a peace order and then she ultimately withdrew that peace order. So

when you heard about um the peace order earlier from the defendant, she actually she did file one, but she herself would would later go on to withdraw it and that was sealed by the district court for uh Baltimore County District Court after Miss May um 00:32:58 did not >> who sealed it? Why was it sealed? >> Why was it sealed? >> Well, because it was dismissed. >> It was she >> sealed meaning it's not it doesn't appear in the records. Did you f >> So she filed for a petition for a peace order >> on September 16th >> and then she withdrew it. >> Then she withdrew it. >> What do you mean by sealed? It doesn't appear in the public records. >> That is correct, your honor. To the best 00:33:20 of my understanding, that's my understanding of sealed or shield or sealed. Yes. So that is correct. Um >> shielded. >> Shielded. Yes. Shielded. Sealed. Synonymous. Um a little bit. So from there, after two ignored uh attempts to see if she could re retract the statements and, you know, clear the record, um after she did not do that, um obviously on September 16th that and I've talked to you about a 24-hour time window, I received a lot of threatening messages, harassing communications um 00:33:55 from individuals. Another thing that I want to talk about is >> What is that? Has nothing to do with your defamation claim, does it? Well, it does because on the same night of September 15th, she actually made posts encouraging people to spam me. And you will see that here in one moment. Um, so she said that I was stalking her, harassing her, and then instructed people to spam me and said that she was spamming. >> Has to do with making false statements, not necessarily encouraging people to do 00:34:20 things. >> Correct. Correct. Absolutely. So, um, but we'll move forward. So, on December 8th, I filed a complaint for defamation. December 10th, the dece the the defendant was served personally with the summon and the complaint at her residence. >> We reviewed all this already. >> All right. And I will just move forward on that. Um your honor and at this point since she is in default, I would now like to start passing up exhibits. Court would entertain that. >> Well, you can you can pass up exhibits, 00:34:48 but the point of this is it's a damage inquiry. >> Yes. >> Tell me how you've been damaged. That's what >> So, your honor, I'm a video production. >> She's already in she's in default. court is not vacating the default. So this is a dam this is basically a damage acquisition at this point. >> Correct. >> So how tell me how you've been damaged. >> So I was damaged. Well, first I would say under Maryland law Batson versus >> forget the law right now. I'll let you 00:35:11 I'll let you argue at the end, but tell me how um tell me what damages you're seeking and how you've been and and what the evidence is in support of your damages. >> So your honor, the damage in this case would be uh reputational harm. I'm a video production specialist in Frederick County, Maryland. Uh, a lot of people seemingly at least saw this post. Um, people believed it to be true. >> Who do you have evidence of that >> that people saw the post? >> Yeah. 00:35:38 >> Well, I have evidence. Well, I do because people directly communicated to me um about the post. >> So, I I do in fact have evidence. >> I have I have that evidence to present. >> All right. Presented. Okay. >> It's your case. I can't tell you. >> No, absolutely. Um, so before Okay. Would the court like to see the P0? Or I'll just pass it up. Okay. Your honor, I would like to admit what has been um labeled plaintiffs exhibit 4. And these are threatening and 00:36:14 harassing third party communications received within a 24-hour period. Do >> you have an extra copy for her? >> Here, I'll just pass it to her. I brought one copy. Thank you. Take a look at it and then pass it up to my clerk after you had a chance to look at it. This hand the document. >> All right. He's moving that documented evidence. Do you have any objection? >> Um, I will say I've never seen an email have read text before and I don't know most of names. I don't even have any 00:38:07 followers with any of those names. I think there were about maybe two. >> Okay, just >> Okay, sorry. >> I know you're not a lawyer, but what would your objection be? >> Um, I'm not sure. >> I would I would move that exhibit. And what are these from, >> your honor? Those are um true and accurate. >> It looks like these are emails to you. >> That is correct, your honor. Those are true and accurate copies of emails um from that time period with my from my 00:38:56 inbox and they are uh dated and there's a time on there. Direct copies. >> Do you know how people had your email address? >> Well, um they had my email address is because it is public. It's it's it's on the internet. It's tied to my um it is tied to my social media profiles and it's also tied to uh my business profile as well online. So, um it is it is accessible to people if they want to go look for it. >> Do you know do you know any of these people? I 00:39:29 >> I I do not know them. >> Not personally. And what are some some of the

documents appear to be emails um reportedly sent to you at a yahoo.com email address and then some >> some are Instagram posts and some are and some are Instagram direct communications to me on Instagram. Were these in your in sent to you on your Instagram account? >> Correct, your honor. >> They were sent messages that came in to you. >> Correct, your honor. uh admit exhibit four. >> Okay. What else? So, your honor, back on 00:40:59 the harm element, I just want to say uh after her post went up, uh as the court has now been able to see, I received threatening and harassing messages from strangers, death threats, people accusing me of crimes, the same exact crimes that the I'm sorry. >> Again, stick to facts. You know, the courts received these, but um stick to specific facts and not argument. >> Okay? I'll let you argue at the end. >> All right. Um, in terms of facts, your honor, I would just say that after those messages came 00:41:37 in, after I viewed and preserved a copy of her posts, um, she did in fact file that peace order, excuse me, I sent her a cease and desist letter. She then filed a peace order. She then withdrew it. And after that cleared up, I one more time sent her a demand letter and I informed her that I was serious about pursuing uh what I had mentioned to her on September 16th in the cease and desist letter. And so in terms of the factual background of the case, that is all I would submit to the court. She 00:42:06 took uh no opportunity. She did not communicate with me or um she showed no interest in trying to originally we were just seeking a retraction and that was it. >> All right. That's the factual background. about how tell me more about the damages you're seeking like why what it is that you're seeking and >> what >> so your honor the damages that I'm seeking is going to be \$40,000 plus the costs of this case um and this is how we break that down um into numbers so there 00:42:40 was three statements quote this guy has been stalking me uh and for that we argued that is worth \$10,000. It's a direct false accusation of a crime of stalking here in Maryland under 3-82. Um, we argue that that statement alone is worth \$10,000 in general damages. Statement two, uh, quote, "He harassed me and my family for months." End quote, another \$10,000. It's a second independently actionable false criminal accusation under Maryland criminal law section 3-83. And then statement three, he is back to 00:43:21 harassing me. A statement um \$10,000 for that one as well. A third indistinct false statement >> that was made >> that was made all made at the same time or that or the second one to go back to harassing me. Was that made at a different time? So these were all made together jointly including the fourth statement in which she is >> all made in in the uh January 15, 2025 Instagram post. >> So your honor, the date is actually >> you put that into evidence yet? >> I have not put that into the evidence 00:43:48 into evidence yet, your honor. Um but we would be more than happy to do just that. And then I would just say um the false age statement that I'm 10 years older than her um that is included. Um, we would argue that seeks a little bit >> may be incorrect. How's that defamatory? >> Well, we're not arguing that it's defamatory. But what I am arguing is that it goes to the actual malice, the actual uh her level of hostility when making that statement. It shows that she's willing to lie to her audience, 00:44:16 tell a misrepresent the truth so boldly that she would double our age gap in Right. >> And I won't I won't argue why she did that, but I will just say that's what I would say about that. So, so far you've told me you won \$10,000 per >> per publication. Yes. For three statements. >> Guys stalking me. He harassed me and my family and he's back to harass me. Okay. What else? >> So, your honor, and then the final \$10,000 we seek, that's enhanced general 00:44:41 damages for the defendants's uh actual malice that that we claim exists in this case. >> Enhanced? You mean punitive damages? What do you mean by enhanced general damages? >> Well, I would just say I I would fit it in. I I mean, yeah, I guess punitive damages would probably be the word. Uh we pled for general damages in this case and I would um the way that I would phrase it is that it it's general damages but it's an enhancement for actual malice in which we argue. >> Do you have any evidence that your video 00:45:11 business um was harmed? >> Um it's hard to sort of quantify that. I would say that it's very hard to quantify that because you don't know how many people viewed that, saw somebody or saw something and said, you know what, let me avoid this individual. And that is why um and I will try to stick away stay away from the argument, but that is why we have defamation per se laws in the state of Maryland uh where harm is presumed. >> Okay, that's all right. >> Thank you, 00:45:52 >> Miss Hey, do you um I know you're not a lawyer. Do you want to cross-examine Mr. Trumbull? Now, again, this isn't a time for you to test. I'm going to let >> I don't know whether you have

anything to that would even be relevant to his damages or not, but I'll give you that opportunity. But do you wish to cross-examine him on his testimony? >> Uh no, I I'm not I don't know how to do this. >> Okay. Mr. Trump, do you have any other witnesses that you intend to call? 00:46:21 No, I do not, your honor. >> Okay. >> But um >> I would just say in terms of the facts to summarize it briefly, September 15th, >> I'll let you do closing argument. >> Thank you. I apologize. Miss May, do you have any um do you have any evidence that you wish to um >> do now? You can't um you can't put up evidence or or defense to the liability portion because that's as to defamation. Um that liability has been established by your default unfortunately because 00:46:59 you didn't file a timely answer. The only question at this point are the damages that can be awarded against you. >> Um, are you asking me for a statement or >> I'm sorry. >> Well, if you have, do you have evidence? Yes. And that as to his as to why he hasn't been harmed or whatever you want to say. >> Uh, >> let's put her under oath. >> You do swear or affirm under the penalty of perjuries that responses given statements made will be the whole 00:47:26 truth and nothing but the truth. >> Yes. >> Thank you. Please state your name for record. >> Eva May. All right. What do you want to say to this man? >> Um, I don't have evidence of any of the damages that he is talking about or stating, but um, yeah. >> Do you have any evidence to to rebut the damages that he's um >> claiming or the harm that he's been that he claims? He did say that I posted his name and photo, but he had created a almost 15 long minute video of me on his 00:47:56 YouTube channel and it got around. >> Objection, your honor. Liability established. >> I don't know yet whether it's relevant or not. Go ahead, finish. >> Um, like thousands of views and it basically says he just went on for 15 minutes talking about how he thinks I'm weird and creepy. And before that, I received a threatening. Is that posted? >> That was posted on the 15th, I believe, of September. And before that, he sent me >> Was that before or after you posted? 00:48:27 >> That was before I posted my response. I all I had posted was >> before >> his own video. I didn't. >> So, he posted that before and and again, liability's been established, but um that's before you posted your post on Instagram. >> That's correct. >> All right. And do you deny, by the way, that you posted saying that this guy's stalking me? >> Um, did you post post his name and photograph? >> I posted simply his um YouTube video 00:48:57 that was already published, but I did those statements correct. >> Okay, go ahead. >> Um, in the video he listed my name. He had I had blocked him on everything since our first suit and he had somehow managed to go through all of my accounts and find all these videos of me um where I make comedy content and he just he also threatened me in an email. >> Objection. You're on a liability established. >> When did when did when did you saying he did what he threatened you? 00:49:34 >> So before I released a >> What day are you talking about? >> Okay. So on I think it was the 13th I believe on the 13th of September. 2025. >> Okay. >> Um I had told him to leave me alone many times and he suddenly sent me an email saying that I posted a song about him. Um and which to I responded that it was not about him and I showed him proof that I made the song before um I had um met him. I made this song completely before and I provided context and he said if I didn't respond within the next 00:50:09 48 hours he would make an action and I was really scared at the time because I didn't know what that meant and um I had provided him with evidence and he even responded to that so he did see that and he still posted the video anyways even after I told him the song was not about him and that was when he posted the video on the 15th. So I responded to him on the 15 because I had been avoiding I don't want anything to do with the plaintiff and I had been trying to >> go ahead. >> Oh, sorry. I had been trying to not be 00:50:46 in contact with him because I told him many times and my family has as well many times for him to leave me alone. >> Anything else you want to tell me? the video he claims that actually that's just argument. >> Okay. Anything else? Any other testimony? >> Um that is it. >> Okay. M trouble. Any any cross- examination of Miss May limited to her um direct examination? >> You don't have to cross. >> Right. I'm um >> they have to be proper questions and 00:51:30 Let me >> um I will decline to do so. I don't think there's any problem. >> Anything else you want to say in rebuttal? Any other testimony you want to give? >> Your honor, I would just say in terms of testimony, what I would say is that when >> I'll let you both have argument, but just testimony here. Factual testimony. >> Factual testimony. um when >> in rebuttal to what she said >> right when those posts went up it caused me and when I started to 00:52:03 receive the incoming communications through email through Instagram they

caused me a lot of anxiety fear obviously as the court has seen those are very serious emails to receive >> I don't think that's in rebuttal to what she testified to >> um no I do not have any rebuttal then. >> Okay. Okay. All right. I'll hear closing argument. Mr. Trumbull, you're first. >> Your honor, um, in closing, the defendant published four factual uh criminal statements about about me on 00:52:40 her Instagram account to 1,500 individuals. Um, she accused me of stalking and harassment. uh and not just harassing her, but also harassing all the members of her family. I don't know her family. Um she accused me of being 10 years older. Um and what I would submit to this court was an attempt to make me look more vicious, more dangerous, to enhance the other three false accusations of criminal conduct. I'm 5 years older than her, not 10 years older. And it shows or what it should 00:53:18 show the court is that she was willing on September 15th at 9:43 p.m. to make false statements. She was willing the the mindset to make false statements was there. And one of the things that I want to point out about that, your honor, is that on September 16th after she received that cease and desist letter, when she went to court, and we have it documented here, she corrected that age statement. She gave the date that I was born. She knew I was not 10 years older than her. She knew that I was not 00:53:47 stalking her or harassing her or harassing members of her family, but she made those statements anyway. Um, she talks a lot about a commentary video that was uh put forth. Um, she wants to bring that up, open that door, we can open that door. She made statements that next day talking about how that same commentary video quote did not hurt her. She found it to be hilarious and she said that she usually would laugh at it. She was amused by that whole situation. Not I'm not saying that. Not only would 00:54:27 the evidence suggest that, but that is evidence out of the defendant's own mouth. Um the harm from those posts was immediate and documented as this court has seen death threats, harassing messages from strangers which she herself told to spammate. And again, we're not factoring that into the defamation or the damages, but we are notating that when you go into the mindset of the defendant on September 15th at around 9 to 12 uh 9:00 p.m. to about 12:00 a.m. that night. What we see is a person 00:55:03 who's angry, who's hostile, and who's trying to weaponize individuals against me and and and doing it by any means necessary, making false statements and and obviously what the court has been familiarized with uh in plaintiff's exhibit number four that was passed up. And I want to say uh your honor and this is very important and this is something that should weigh heavily with this court. I gave her every reasonable opportunity, the defendant every reasonable opportunity to not be here today. I said I reached 00:55:34 out to her through cease and desist the next day and I said please retract these things. Please retract. I am receiving massive, uncomfortable, alarming, annoying threats that are that that I'm taking seriously and I would like you to retract this. She ignored it. She went through and filed a peace order. Then she withdrew her own peace order and corrected that age statement. So, oh, and the formal demand letter, we can't forget about that. That was done on November 19th, 2025 after the court had sealed the peace 00:56:14 order that she herself withdrew. And I want to be very clear as I as I start to close out here. We don't claim the peace order as damages. We don't claim the 10-year-old's >> 10 years old. Yes. >> Judicial privilege. >> I'm not we're not claiming that. That is not a part of this case whatsoever for exactly the reasons you you stated right there. Um, but what I would say is is that the court in a similar case in the Harvey Jones v uh colonel case, in a similar comparable defamation per se 00:56:44 case that arose right here in Baltimore County in this very circuit court in 2018, in a default defamation per se action, the court awarded um the plaintiff in that matter \$210,000 total in damages. um the default by way of this court. Um the complaint is admitted. The evidence before this court documents the harm. Um I have given testimony as to my extreme anxiety and discomfort and attempted everything that I could to try to not bring this issue before the court. But because of the defendant's willful 00:57:24 inaction to move this thing, we are now here today. She could have retracted September 16th. She chose not to. She left it out. Months later, when she says, you know, I filed a peace order against this guy. I withdrew it. Everything's good. When she received that demand letter, she could have said, hey, I'm going to take it back. We can go our separate ways. I offered her, and we have it in writing. I said, "Retract it and let's sign a mutual release agreement saying we go away completely 00:57:52 forever and never speak to each other again." That was the opportunity that she had no in in November of 2025.

She said, "Nope. Let's take it to court. I stand by these statements by way of um by way of her actions." And um in closing, your honor, I just want to say that uh we we filed suit. We made good on every promise to the defendant of what we would do. We we sued her on December 8th. She was served on December 10th. At that point, she had 30 days. I won't get into that too much, but she drugg 00:58:27 this thing out all the way up until today. And on Saturday, I receive a large packet of mailings in the envelope suggesting after we've motioned the court for order of default, after we've done a motion for default judgment, after the court has set this hearing into place today to do exactly what we're doing right now. After all that, she tries to throw an 11th hour Hail Mary to try to get the order of default vacated. So, your honor, um, had this case proceeded to trial, and I want to 00:58:59 talk a little bit about that as well. Um, we would have proved by every element of >> this case did proceed to trial. >> Okay, >> that's what we're doing. >> Exactly. But I'm, you're right. I mean, a jury, let me just put it this way. Well, >> it doesn't matter. I mean, >> let's strike that. Let's strike that, your honor. Um, what I will do is I will just close now with saying, um, I respectfully ask this court to enter a default judgment in my 00:59:24 favor in the amount of \$40,000 in general damages plus the \$245 cost for um cost for the filing of the complaint and plus the fee for the process server. \$165 filing fee plus the \$80 service of process fee. and to enter final default, excuse me, and to enter default judgment in this case under Maryland rule 2-613F. >> Okay. >> Thank you. >> Closing agreement from you. >> Um I he states a lot about the age thing. I didn't know his age. I try not to know anything about him because he 01:00:01 makes me um slightly uncomfortable. Um and in his video, the comments, and I have all of my exhibits and my statement here. Um I didn't submit it in my recent vacate and also dismissal, but I understand that that's no >> statements of what? >> Uh timeline of events and the video. Um in comments on his video, um he was deleting comments of people saying, "Oh, I like her. Oh, um she seems really funny." And he was keeping up comments of people talking about bending me over 01:00:36 and um assaulting me. Um and he was making comments that involved of my books and I also have that all here in my exhibits. Um, >> your under liability establishment was >> I didn't ask you to interrupt or >> I'm sorry. >> Um, and I did retract my age statement because in the comments I genuinely did think he was 10 years older because he seems to know a lot about the wall. So, I did think he was 10 years older. And I did retract my statements because in the comments he mentioned that he was um 01:01:08 only 5 years older. And so I my statements in the peace order. I believe that was next. Um, but before I genuinely did not know his age. Um, also I would like to state again that I simply posted his video that was already public and already had many many views. And I did say that the video was hilariously bad the next day because the video absolutely humiliated me because he >> was your post about was your post with the three statements he alleges are um are false? Was was that was that a was 01:01:45 that a comment in his video? >> Yes. >> Is that right? It was not a comment, your honor. It was a post on her Instagram. >> Was it a separate post or was it >> separate? It was a separate post on September 15th, 2025 at 9:53 p.m. to her Instagram account at Ava G May that contained three Well, I won't repeat them, but the three accusations we talked about completely separate. >> I thought you meant in response to his video. >> What did you It wasn't a reply. It 01:02:18 wasn't a comment. >> No, I'm sorry. I thought you meant in response to his video. I did post on those posts, but it was based off of the video and what he's been doing. That was my question. >> Okay, go ahead. >> Anything else? >> Um yes. Um the reason I didn't respond as I stated was because um he constantly constantly tries to reach out to me and I have told him countless times to leave me alone. My sister even told him to leave me alone in the comments and then 01:02:49 he asked to reach out to her privately. And we have also proof of all of this in here. Um, and I'm just so tired. I'm really tired. It's I don't know what else to do at this point. I just want this to end. I never wanted to respond to him. I never wanted this. This song was not about him. And I also have proof of that in here. I just want him to go away. And I don't know what else to do. >> All right. Thank you. All right. again. Um, Miss May, the problem here in terms of 01:03:23 uh being able to defend the case completely is that you didn't timely move to vacate the order of default and the court's already spoken about that. That this point under the rules um past the point of um being able to defend the case on liability, you're really just stuck with um with being able to respond to the damages. um

portion. Um and that's unfortunate. Um but it you know the rules are the rules and um it's partly because we can't have people that um you know there's kind of 01:03:59 has to be an orderly uh flow to to cases and when there's a default uh we do give people first of all when you served you have 30 days if you served in the state of Maryland to respond to the complaint and you were late which happens sometimes but then you have to have you know the rules require that you then say hey I know I'm late but I have a good reason for being late I have a defense to the and you have to do that within 30 days. And so there's a time limit imposed by the rules. And if we didn't 01:04:25 have the time limit, then people could just, you know, six months later or a year later say, "Well, I'm going to move to vacate default." And so, you know, unfortunately, there's not much I can do for you there in terms of where we are procedurally in the case. Um, as far as So, the court is at the point now where it has to decide, well, what amount of damages the uh the plaintiff in the case did pray a jury trial. elected to waive that right to a jury trial. The right was preserved, but um we went over that 01:04:55 with the plaintiff and he agreed that he wanted to proceed with the judge me as the u as the factfinder on damages and and uh not to preserve and to waive his right to a jury trial. And so that's where we are. And then the court then had to hear testimony from you both about um you know what what is the appropriate amount of damages. This is a defamation case. Um defamation Um, basically without getting too technical now that it means technical technical about it means that uh he alleged that you made a false statement 01:05:29 that injured his reputation. That's kind of like the easiest way that I can describe it. So it's it's kind of a reputational harm. Um he uh he is correct that there are some things that if uh if said that could be considered what we call defamation per se which means like if you call someone uh a criminal. Um which he's arguing that you you did by alleging that he's a stalker that that's defamation per se and that he doesn't need to establish um you know the exact uh he doesn't need to 01:06:00 establish the exact dollar amount of a reputational harm. He can just say I've been damaged um per se by the statements. Um, in this case, the court the court's considered um the testimony by the plaintiff and u and also the response from Miss May. And the court's going to award \$1,500 in total damages to the plaintiff plus um this uh cost of \$245. the court arrived at that uh in that I'm finding that he alleges basically three false statements and I'm awarding \$500 per um per 01:06:37 statement as um an expression of the per se damages. I I will say this that the court did not he um Mr. uh Trump mainly in rebuttal case where it was too late attempted to get in to his extreme anxiety and so forth but he didn't talk about it at all in his um in his case in chief um the court does accept that uh accepting the fact that these statements are false because that's where we are in in the case that liabilities established the court does see how nevertheless this could cause um 01:07:14 some uh angst and anxiety of having these um statements out there. Um but so my damages are both a combination of per se but also I've taken into account the harm that he feels that it it occurs to the court and I don't know uh nor do I really want to know all the long history of the parties here and uh and um had there been a trial on liability maybe that would the court would have heard more on that or been been more relevant. But I will say this that um I'm not going to kind of give an opinion as to 01:07:46 who started this or who's at fault. Um but um the court has kind of stuck with the fact that the fault that the statements are deemed that there's liability established and so that's why I'm awarding some um damages. I I think though that the the planet passed for \$40,000. I think that his case is mitigated or or that he really has failed in the court's view to prove \$40,000 worth of damages because number one, I heard no um evidence of economic harm to his video business. Um and it 01:08:17 seems that there's um that what we have going on here between the two parties, and again, I'm not pointing fingers as to who's more at fault, but there's there's a there's a personal thing going on here. Um uh the plaintiff was on Instagram already kind of interacting with the defendant. Um the defendant nevertheless decided to respond with these comments which um you know may or may not have been uh true but she she has lost her ability to argue as to the truth of the statements because she 01:08:48 didn't timely file an answer. So the court's going to assume that they're false statements but nevertheless there's fears to the court that there's some mitigation here that both parties are on Instagram. Um and I I think that um it's not really my job to editorialize, but maybe maybe both sides need to think very closely about and more carefully about what they

post on on social media out out to the public because there are um you know there are consequences on both sides here. There's 01:09:16 consequences to making statements that are defamatory and there's potential um consequences in terms of um statements that you know could be considered stalking or whatever. And so I'm just I'm just saying um that uh I think parties need to think carefully about what they do in the future here. And I would say to the defendant that this is not even though I'm not awarding the \$40,000 that he's seeking, I don't this is not kind of an invitation for you to make more statements because he 01:09:46 could sue you again. Okay. Um and so anyway, that's my that's my judgment. I've considered the arguments um about per se damages. I've considered the harm um that the defendant alleges. And um I've considered uh the uh the facts that mitigate um the harm. Not it doesn't take the uh the liability away, but m potentially mitigate the harm. In the court's view, this is an appropriate judgment. So my judge I'm going to enter a judgment against um in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant in 01:10:16 the amount of \$1,500 plus court cost of \$245. That's my judgement. We'll issue a little later today. Okay. >> Thank you, your honor. >> Thank you so much, your honor. Do I need to collect that from you? >> No. Okay. >> Okay. Thank you.